





F157
C3W72



*Front View Remodeled Centre County Court House
Dedicated May 19th, 1911*

NEWMAN & HARRIS, Architects
GEHRET & LAMBERT, Contractors



Front and Side View, Showing Extension



Court Room



Marble Stairways Leading to Court Room



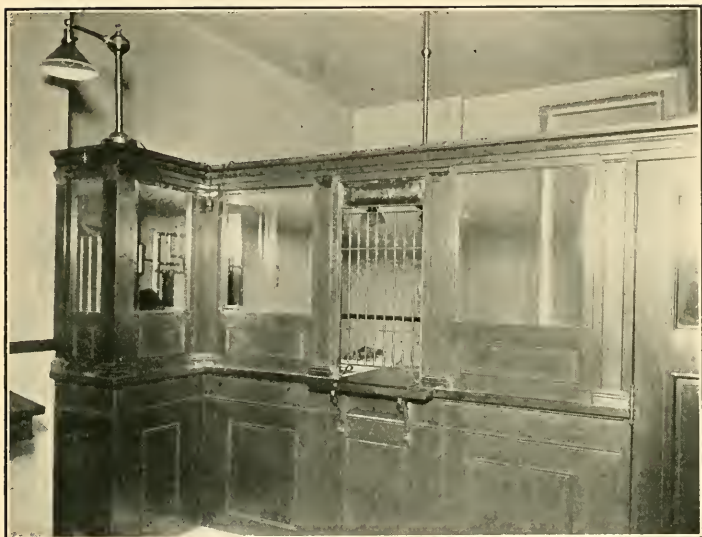
Marble Stairway to Court Room



Rear Porch



A Corridor on Second Floor



County Treasurer's Office



Judge's Chambers

Centre County Officers and Attorneys

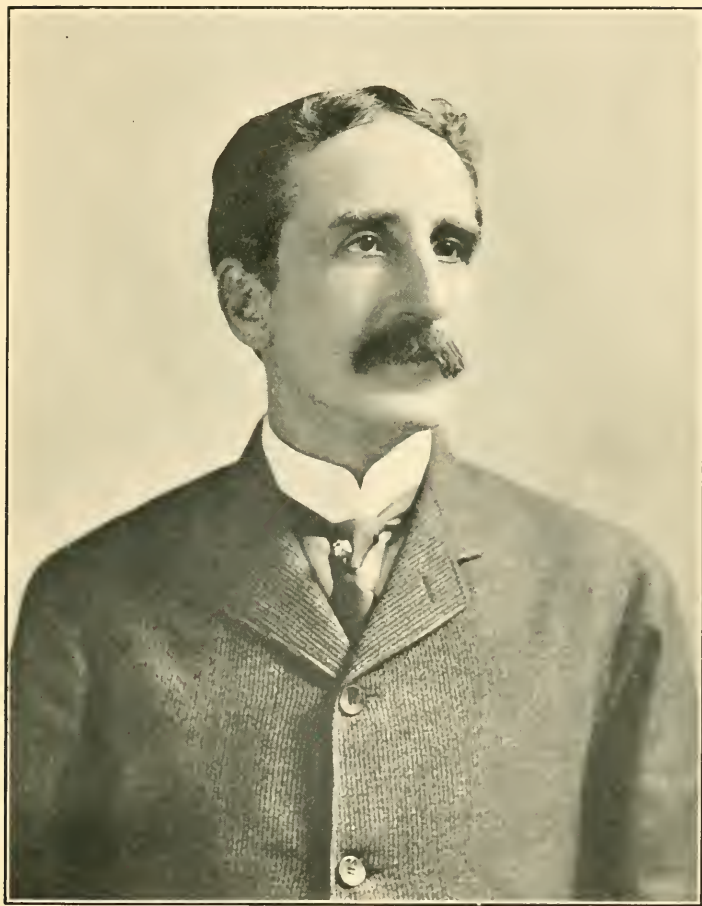
President Judge: HON. ELLIS L. ORVIS

COUNTY OFFICERS

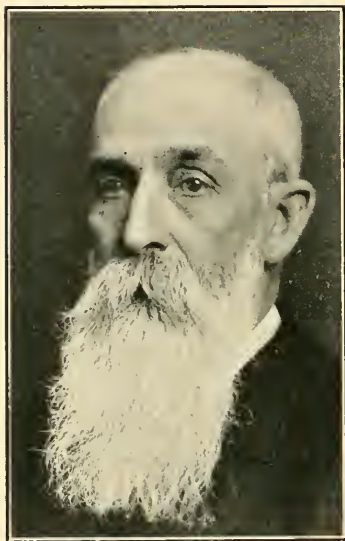
Prothonotary and Clerk of the Court—A. B. Kimport.
Deputy Prothonotary—D. R. Foreman.
Sheriff—W. E. Hurley.
Deputy Sheriff—Fred Rees.
District Attorney—W. G. Runkle.
Court Reporters—Gilbert S. Burrows and Miss Belle Weaver.
Treasurer—G. G. Fink.
Clerk of O. C. and Register—Earle C. Tuten.
Deputy Clerk of O. C. and Register—Miss Anna Nolan.
Recorder—William H. Brown.
Deputy Recorder—W. C. Armstrong.
Commissioners—J. Woodring, H. E. Zimmerman, J. L. Dunlap.
Commissioners Clerks—E. J. Williams and J. Homer Decker.
Court Crier—John Noll.
Janitors—Levi Symmonds and Harry Stevenson.
County Surveyor—J. H. Wetzel.
County Auditors—R. D. Musser, H. B. Pontius, C. U. Hoffer.
Jury Commissioners—J. Adam Hazel and John D. Decker.
Coroner—Dr. S. M. Huff.
County Superintendent—D. O. Eetters.

RESIDENT ATTORNEYS

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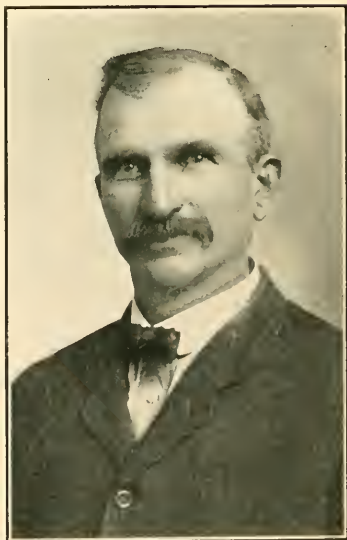
HON. ELLIS L. ORVIS,
PRESIDENT JUDGE.



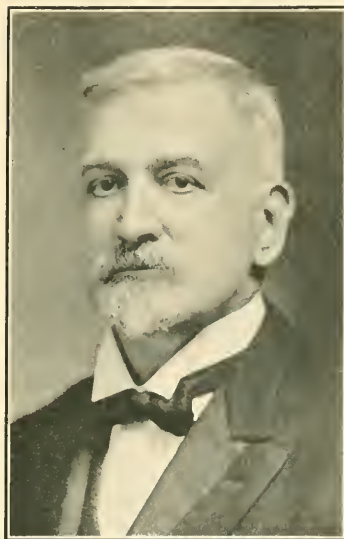
JACOB WOODRING,
County Commissioner



H. E. ZIMMERMAN,
County Commissioner



JOHN L. DUNLAP,
County Commissioner



CLEMENT DALE,
County Solicitor



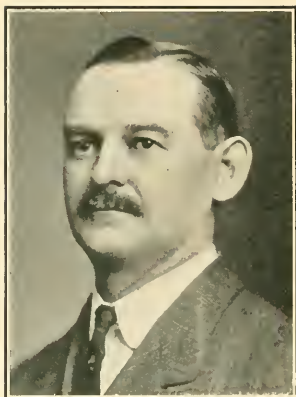
E. J. WILLIAMS,
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J. HOMER DECKER,
Asst. Clerk to Commissioners



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Prothonotary



W. E. HURLEY,
Sheriff



WILLIAM GROH RUNKLE,
District Attorney



DAVID R. FOREMAN,
Deputy Prothonotary



FRED REES,
Deputy Sheriff



EARLE C. TUTEN,
Register



WILLIAM H. BROWN,
Recorder of Deeds



GEORGE G. FINK,
County Treasurer



MISS ANNA H. NOLAN,
Deputy Register



W. C. ARMSTRONG,
Deputy Recorder

Historical



IN the passage of the Act of 13th of February, 1800, erecting Centre County, it was provided that Bellefonte should become the county seat. The principal consideration therefor was set forth in the deed from the Proprietors of the Town to the Trustees of the new county whereby they not only set aside the square for the erection of the county buildings thereon, but conveyed an undivided one-third interest in all the lots of the Town to the County.

By the beginning of the year 1805 it was found that this fund had grown sufficiently to warrant the erection of a court-house. Up until this time the sessions of the court were held in the stone house at the northeast corner of High and Spring streets, then the property of James Dunlop and now owned by the Jacob Valentine Estate.

The first court-house was an unpretentious two-story stone building occupying the space now taken up by the front lobby and the offices of the Prothonotary and Register. This structure was completed, as nearly as can be ascertained, in the Fall of the year 1805 or the Spring of 1806. The second story being devoted to the court-room.

During the next five years the business of the county grew so rapidly that the little court-house was insufficient for its needs, and wings were built in the year 1811 to both the northern and southern ends extending somewhat beyond the western front of the original building. For many years these additions were apparently sufficient for their purpose and in 1835 it was suggested that the building be ornamented and dignified by the erection of the present columned porch which was completed during that year.

By 1854 the court-house had fallen into a bad state of repair and petitions were presented to several Grand Juries asking for a recommendation for the erection of a new building. These were continually refused until, after repeated urging, two Grand Juries finally recommended "alterations and repairs". Acting on these

recommendations the Board of Commissioners went to the limit of their powers and tore away all the building except the columned porch, rebuilding the entire structure to the rear thereof and completing the same in 1855.

Notwithstanding the fact that there was no basement under this building, that it had no toilet accommodations, no water, even for drinking purposes, and none at all for fire protection, the old building remained practically as it was rebuilt in 1855 for fifty-five years, until the annual repairs grew to a very large figure. With no fire protection for the county records, no water accommodations, and not sufficient space for the transaction of the ordinary business of the county or the proper care of the records, a serious condition has confronted each Board of Commissioners for many years, until the necessity became too great to be longer avoided.

For many years the court-house has been insufficient for the proper transaction of the business of the County, and during the past ten years the various Boards of Commissioners had seriously considered a reconstruction of the old building. However, no definite plan had been made until the present Board was confronted with the actual necessity of making some decided change and enlargement. This necessity arose by reason of the following facts, viz:

- 1—The vaults containing the county records were *not fireproof*, and each one was filled to overflowing with its records, while the County Treasurer had *no vault* for his use.
- 2—The Grand Jury, *twenty-four* in number, were compelled to hold their sessions in a *small jury room*, with no cloak or toilet accommodations, and their witnesses, who had to wait in the court-room, were a constant interruption and delay to the court proceedings.
- 3—The Register and his deputy and the Recorder and his deputy used the same office, with no privacy in the transaction of business, and continual interference with each others work. The Commissioners had no private room for either their board meetings or for the transaction of the county's business with the numerous citizens who come to see them, and the regular office work was greatly handicapped thereby.
- 4—Neither the Judge, the District-Attorney, the County Superintendent of Schools, nor the County Surveyor, had offices in the building, thereby putting the county to the annual expense of much outside office rent.

- 5—The laws of this State provide for the maintainance of a law library in connection with each county court-house. The old library, located in what was practically a passage-way or cloak-room, was placed on open shelving reaching to the top of a fifteen-foot wall, and the valuable books thereon were not only ruined by dust and dirt but many of them were out of reach.
- 6—The main entrances to the court-room were so arranged that the coming and going of those in attendance at court caused the greatest confusion, and the seats in the auditorium were raised in such a manner that the rising and seating of the audiences during the court proceedings caused much interruption; while the ceiling of the court-room was in bad condition and needed general repairs, and the furnishing and decorating of the room, done piecemeal during many years, was neither in harmony with the style of the building or of the room itself.
- 7—The offices on the first floor were badly lighted, with no ventilation, as the old building had no cellar or basement floor, and the retaining walls along the side streets were so high and so close to the building that they increased the unhealthy condition of the offices. The corridor floor was merely a stone pavement, laid over fifty years ago without any under-drain, and was impossible to keep clean and in a sanitary condition. There was no running water in the building and the toilet conveniences were few, poor and unsanitary.
- 8—The roof the building was improperly supported and had sunk in several places until it was in danger of collapse. The roofing material was leaky and in general bad condition, and the mechanism of the town clock had been repaired and patched so often that it could no longer be considered a time-keeper.
- 9—The court-house was reconstructed in 1855, fifty-six years ago, and of late years had become a source of *heavy annual expense* to the county in continual repairs.

With these reasons as a basis, the present Board of Commissioners decided to build the addition to the eastern end of the court-house building, which had so often been strenuously recommended by Grand Juries, and to undertake the other improvements also recommended by them. They then consulted various architects and men of experience in such matters, which deliberations finally resulted in the selection of the plans of Architects Newman & Harris, of Philadelphia, for the building of the eastern addition and of certain necessary and long needed improvements to the old building.

The Board then presented the plans for the contemplated alterations and improvements at a meeting held at the home of Judge Ellis L. Orvis, consisting of his Honor, the Judge, each member of the Bar of Centre County who was able to attend, and Superior Court Judge, General James A. Beaver. After a complete investigation and discussion of the subject, these gentlemen not only unanimously approved of the same as being in line with the recommendations of many Grand Juries, but urged the Board to take immediate action thereon.

It was the general opinion of the great majority of persons approached on the subject that the main portico or front of the building, erected in 1835, should not be changed in any way. Upon careful examination it was found that while the walls were in every way substantial, yet the tearing down of any portion would probably mean the collapse of the one so opened. Therefore, it was the opinion of the architects who were selected, as well as of other prominent architects who were consulted, that the erection of an addition to the eastern end of the old structure was the only solution of the problem.

The plans as originally decided upon, contemplated the building of the eastern addition eighty feet wide and forty feet deep, to contain sufficient room for the Grand Jury and its witnesses, a vault for the Treasurer, and offices and a vault for the Commissioners on the first floor, with offices for the Judge and the District Attorney and sufficient room for a memorial hall and library on the second floor. A basement was also to be excavated under the addition to make room for a heating and ventilating plant, as well as additional vault space for the future years. The plans also provided for the rearrangement of the office rooms so that the Register and the Recorder should each have separate offices, a room for the County Superintendent and County Surveyor, a janitor's room, several toilet rooms, and an enlargement of the Prothonotary's vault space. They also included the remodeling of the court-room, the proper support of the roof and a permanent cover therefor, fireproofing of the vaults, and some method of making the entire building as nearly fireproof as possible.

In the development of these plans, it was found that the best manner of fireproofing the building was to construct all the stairways of iron with marble treads and to wainscoat the corridors and lobbies with marble, this construction, with standpipes running to each floor from the town water mains, gives practical immunity from fire and full protection for the county records, which they have never had before.

The first consideration in the building of the proposed addition and the reconstruction of the old building, was to be able to finance the work without adding to the tax rate, or in any way increasing the burden of taxation on the citizens of the county. This was accomplished by borrowing the sum of one hundred thousand dollars at four per cent. interest, and, notwithstanding the fact that there was a very poor market for bonds during the summer of 1909, this loan was placed so that it netted the county treasury over two per cent. profit on the transaction. Arrangements were then made for a sinking fund with the Bellefonte Trust Company, so that by the payment from the county funds of eleven hundred dollars every six months for a period of thirty years the entire amount of one hundred thousand dollars would accumulate in that time, though the actual payment by the county would be only sixty-six thousand dollars, the accumulated interest on said sinking fund aggregating the balance of thirty-four thousand dollars. The new and remodeled court-house therefore will cost the county sixty-two hundred dollars per year for thirty years, four thousand dollars for the annual interest and twenty-two hundred dollars for the annual sinking fund payments, at the end of which time the Trust Company will have the full sum of one hundred thousand dollars with which to lift the bonds. This annual payment is less than five per cent. of the annual income of the county and will not affect the tax rate in any way during the life of the bonds.



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JAMES RIDDLE, First President Judge of Centre County,
1800-1804.

THOMAS COOPER, President Judge, 1804-1806.

JONATHAN HOGE WALKER, President Judge, 1806-1818.
Appointed to the United States District Court, 1818.

CHARLES HUSTON, President Judge, 1818-1826.
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, 1826.

THOMAS BURNSIDE, President Judge, 1826-1842.
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, 1845.

GEORGE W. WOODWARD, President Judge, 1842-1851.
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, 1852.
Appointed to the United States Circuit Court, 1863.

JAMES T. HALE, President Judge, 1851-1851.

ALEXANDER JORDON, President Judge, 1851-1853.

JAMES BURNSIDE, President Judge, 1853-1859.

JAMES GAMBLE, President Judge, 1859-1859.

SAMUEL LINN, President Judge 1859-1868.

J. B. MCENALLY, President Judge, 1868-1868.

CHARLES A. MAYER, President Judge, 1868-1874.

JOHN HOLDEN ORVIS, President Judge, 1874-1883.

ADAM HOY, President Judge, 1884-1884.

AUSTIN O. FURST, President Judge, 1884-1894.

JOHN G. LOVE, President Judge, 1894-1904.

ELLIS LEWIS ORVIS, President Judge, 1904.

W. Harrison Walker

Lawyer

Notary Public Bellefonte, Pa.

SAMUEL D. GETTIG JOHN J. BOWER
WILLIAM D. ZERBY

Gettig, Bower & Zerby
(Orvis, Bower & Orvis)

Attorneys-at-Law

Bellefonte, Pa.

JAMES C. FURST

Attorney-at-Law

Notary Public Bellefonte, Pa.

Office Opposite Court House

CLEMENT DALE

Attorney-at-Law

BELLEFONTE, PA.

DAVID F. FORTNEY
D. PAUL FORTNEY

FORTNEY & FORTNEY

Attorneys-at-Law

Bellefonte, Pa.

Office, North of Court House

E. R. CHAMBERS

Attorney-at-Law

Bellefonte, Pa.

No. 7 East High Street

A. A. DALE

Attorney-at-Law

Bellefonte, Pa.

S. KLINE WOODRING

Attorney-at-Law

Bellefonte, Pa.

No. 18 Crider's Exchange

WILLIAM GROH RUNKLE

Attorney-at-Law

(District Attorney)

Bellefonte, Pa.

J. KENNEDY JOHNSTON

Attorney-at-Law

Bellefonte, Pa.

H. C. QUIGLEY

Attorney-at-Law

Bellefonte, Pa.

Office, Temple Court

H. S. TAYLOR

Attorney-at-Law

Bellefonte, Pa.



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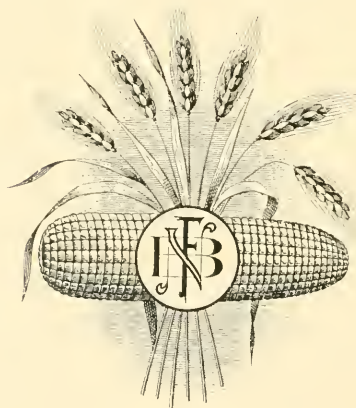
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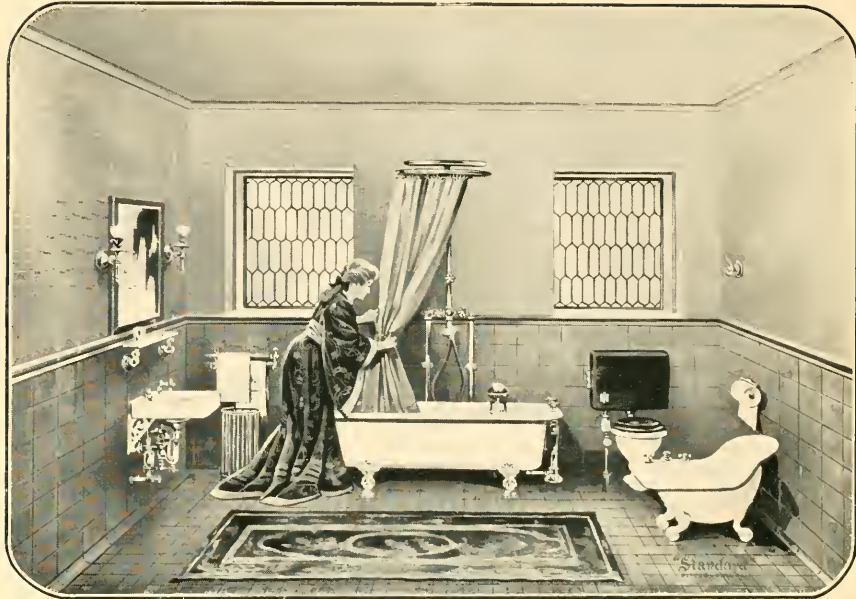
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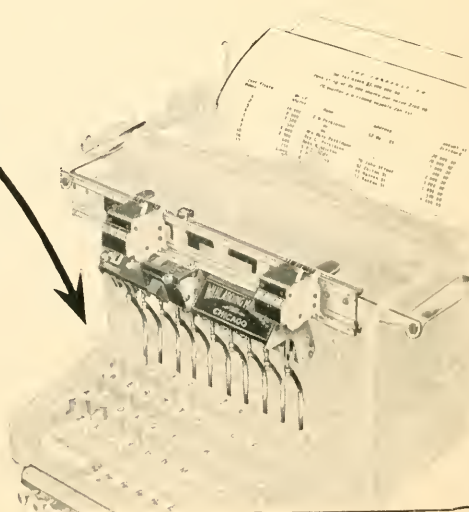
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BELLEFONTE, PA.

First National Bank

Philipsburg, Pa.

Capital Stock	-	-	-	\$100,000.00
Surplus	-	-	-	140,000.00
Undivided Profits	-	-	-	15,000.00
Total Resources	-	-		<u>\$1,560,000.00</u>

(Condensed from its report to the Comptroller of the Currency,
Jan. 7, 1911.)

Resources

Loans and Discounts	-	-	\$1,116,730.23
U. S. Bonds to secure Circulation			100,000.00
Furniture and Fixtures	-	-	4,481.00
Cash and Reserve	-	-	<u>\$ 340,026.58</u>
Total	-	-	1,561,237.81

Liabilities

Capital Stock	-	-	-	\$100,000.00
Surplus Fund	-	-	-	140,000.00
Undivided Profits	-	-	-	15,956.29
Circulation	-	-	-	100,000.00
Dividends Unpaid	-	-		402.00

Deposits

Individual	-	\$1,191,762.45	
Banks	-	13,117.07	<u>\$1,204,879.52</u>
Total	-	-	\$1,561,237.81

Directors

Geo. W. McGaffey, President			
L. W. Nuttall, Vice President		J. E. Fryberger,	shier
L. C. Harman, M. D.		Charles R. Hou	
James H. France		Thomas J. Lee	

Daily and Weekly Journal

Philipsburg, Pa.

W. T. BAIR, Editor and Proprietor

¶ Weekly Journal, Established 1868, \$1.00 Per Year ¶
¶ Daily Journal, Established 1888, \$3.00 Per Year ¶

¶ We publish at the present time the only daily paper in Centre county, as well as the only daily in the old original Clearfield coal region. It is recognized as **The People's Paper**—Clean, Newsy and Up-to-Date, and a most popular advertising medium.

¶ Fine Job Printing Plant in Connection With the Paper

Centre County's Leading
Newspaper

Centre Democrat

BELLEFONTE, PA

Contains More Local News

Has More Subscribers

Is More Generally Read Than Any Other Paper
in Centre County

Sworn Circulation Over
5600

Has All Others Beaten to a Frazzle

MAY 16 1911

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

BELLEFONTE, PA.

Capital = = = \$100,000

Surplus and Profits 150,000

OFFICERS

Chas. M. McCurdy, President

Geo. F. Harris, Vice President

James K. Barnhart, Cashier

DIRECTORS

Chas. M. McCurdy

W. Fred Reynolds

Geo. F. Harris

Geo. M. Gamble

Wm. P. Humes

Henry S. Linn

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lot 29

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